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MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Fire Departments

FROM: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

DATE: January 5, 2007

SUBJECT: **527 CMR 31 – Carbon Monoxide Alarms**

There appears to be some confusion on the deadlines regarding compliance with 527 CMR 31. I am, therefore, sending out this short piece of information to assist you.

527 CMR 31 Reminder to All Fire Departments:

Please share this with your fire prevention officers who are working to implement the CO regulations.

The Legislature has extended the deadline for Commonwealth and public housing authority owned occupancies and those occupancies where the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations has mandated hard-wired installations, (at its September 2006 meeting) to **January 1, 2008**.

Many building owners and some fire prevention officials may be confused and think that this legislative extension also applies to those residential occupancies that were mandated to meet the March 31, 2006 deadline but chose to take advantage of the alternative compliance hardwire option.

Those residential occupancies that requested an extension pursuant to CMR 31.04 (1)(d) to install hardwired CO detectors (or other alternative compliance option) and who have applied to local fire department prior to 5-15-06, must still have the detectors installed by **January 1, 2007** as required by law.

527 CMR 31.04(1) (d)

Alternative compliance deadline for certain installations:

Any owner who intends to meet the requirements of 527 CMR 31.04 by installing either: (1) ac (alternating current) primary power source with battery back up or wired, low voltage, carbon monoxide alarm protection or (2) an Alternative Compliance Option of 527 CMR 31.04 (1)(c), shall not be required to complete such installation until 1-1-07 if said owner provides written notification of such intent to the head of the fire department by 5-15-06. The submission of such notification shall be deemed to be the consent by the owner to the future inspection of the subject building by the head of the fire department to determine compliance. Installation of carbon monoxide alarm protection pursuant to 527 CMR 31.04(1)(d) may be allowed not withstanding the late filing of the written notification, only upon the approval of the head of the fire department who may require temporary carbon monoxide alarm protection pending the completion of installation.

All other residential properties should already have installed CO alarm as of March 31, 2006.

I have also attached the full regulation for your convenience.

If you have any questions please contact our Technical Services Unit at 978-567-3375 or in Western MA 413-587-3181.

SDC